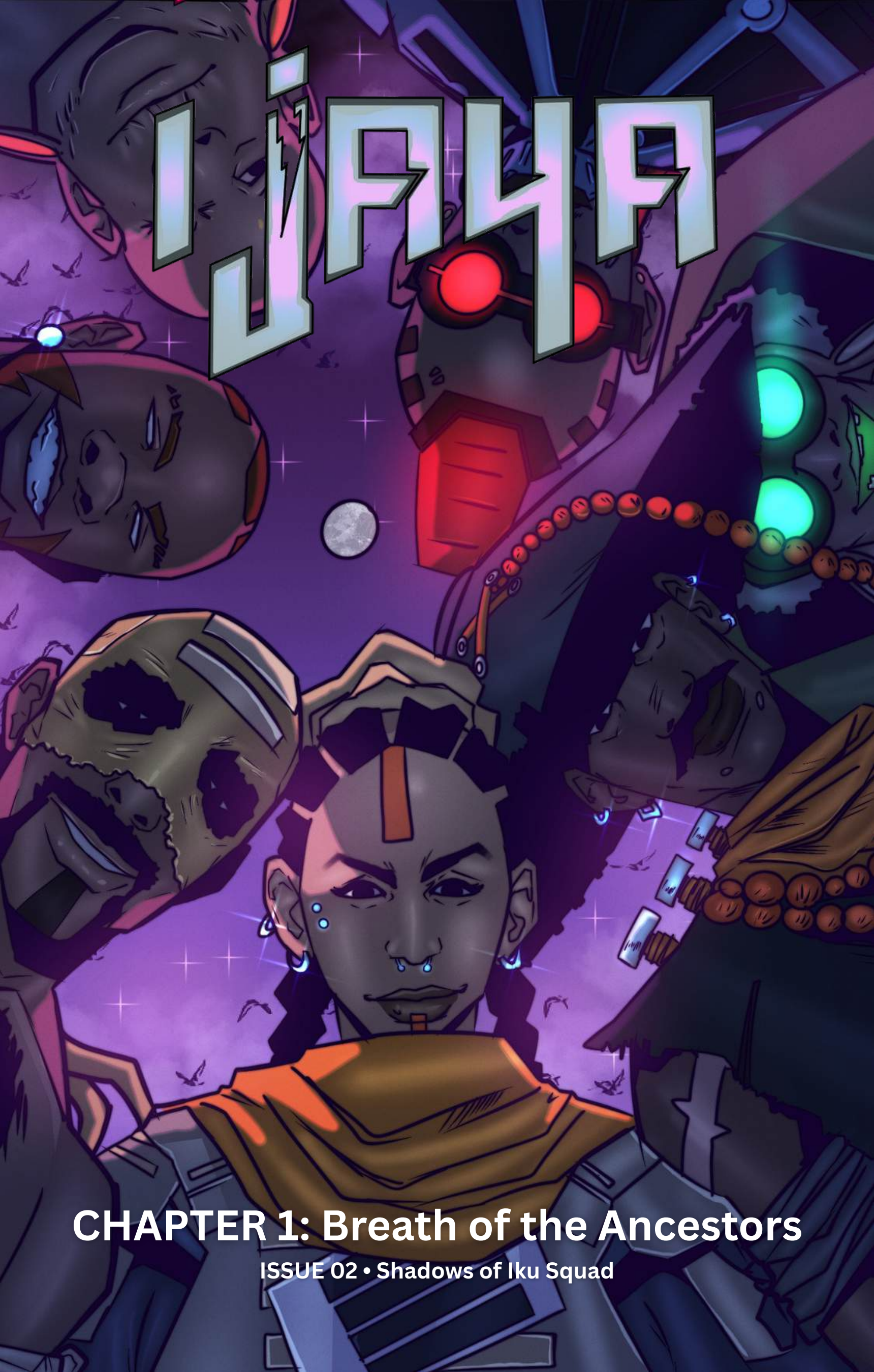




IIRVA

CHAPTER 1: Breath of the Ancestors

ISSUE 02 • Shadows of Iku Squad



IJAYA

Story by

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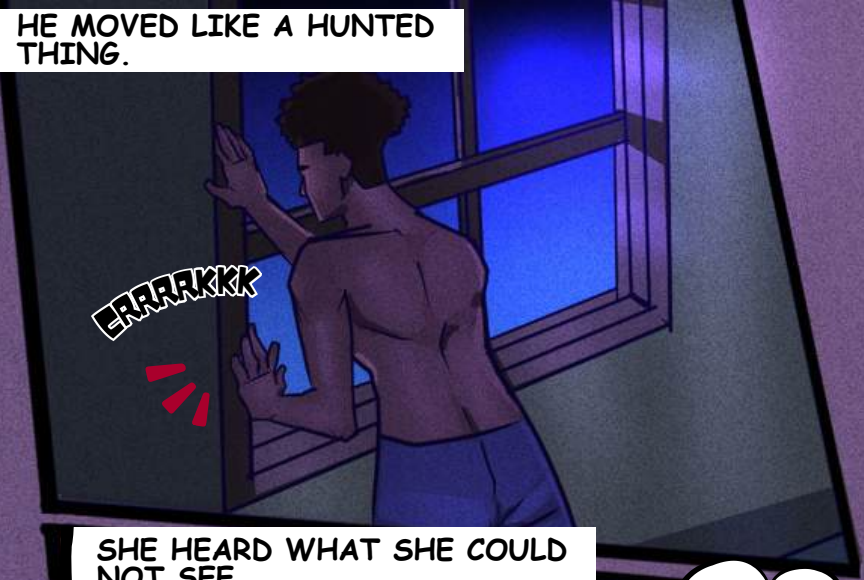
Speech Text & SFX

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THE HUNT WAS OVER.
THE HERD WAS SILENT.

HE MOVED LIKE A HUNTED
THING.



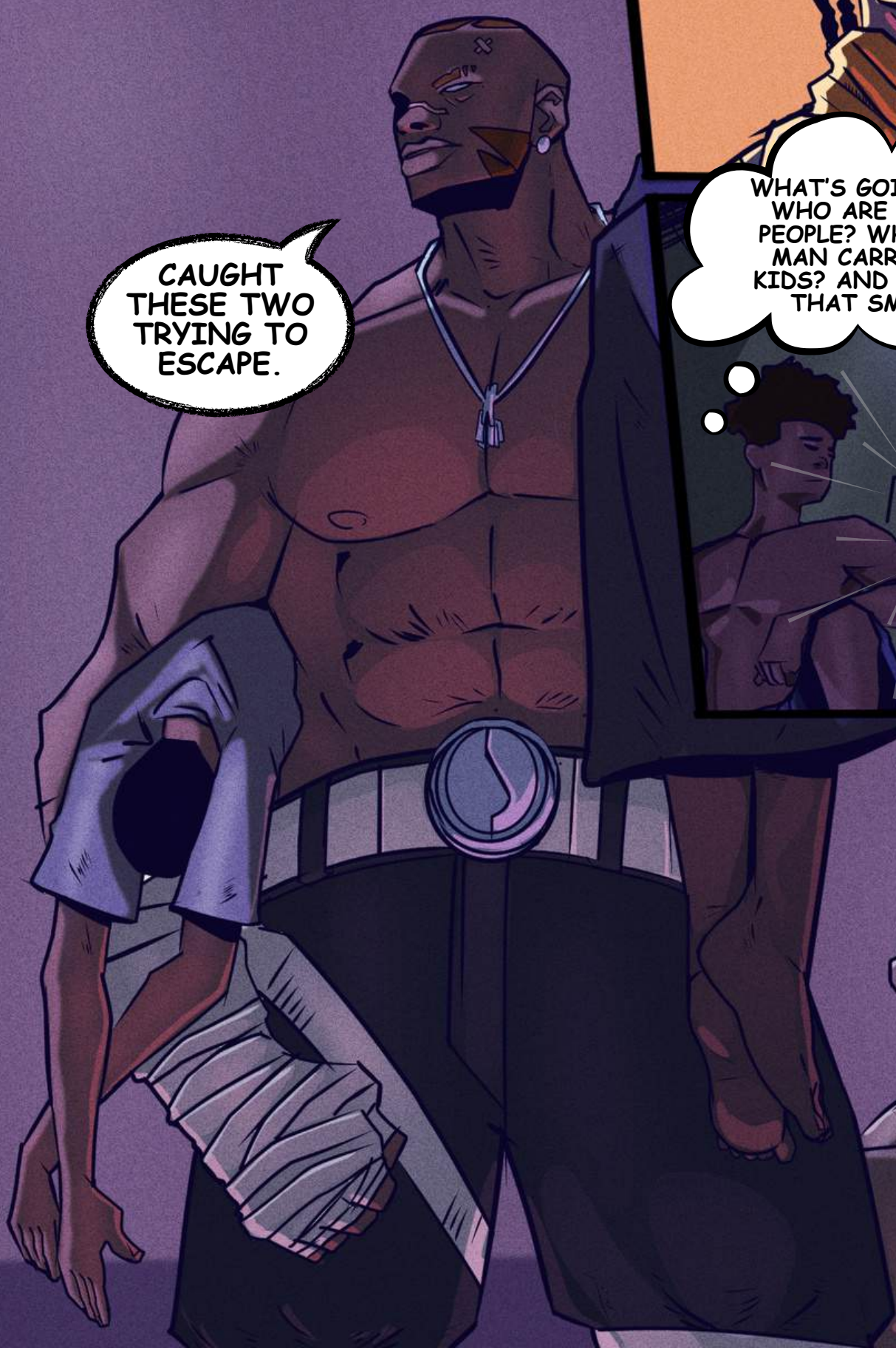
SHE HEARD WHAT SHE COULD
NOT SEE.



WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO ARE THESE
PEOPLE? WHY IS A
MAN CARRYING...
KIDS? AND WHAT'S
THAT SMELL?



CAUGHT
THESE TWO
TRYING TO
ESCAPE.



HER EYES SWEEP SHADOWS
LIKE BLADES.



NOTHING SHOULD
STILL BE MOVING BY
NOW... BUT THIS
SHOULD BE EASY. I
WONDER WHY BOSS
WAS WARY.

MOMO'S EYES AGAIN...
ALWAYS CATCHING
FLICKERS IN THE MIST.
HMPH. NO ONE SHOULD
STILL BE BREATHING IN
THERE.



MOMO'S ON EDGE... OVER
ORPHANS? HAH.
SOMETHING'S NOT ADDING
UP. BUT ME? I LOVE WHEN
THINGS STOP ADDING UP.
THAT'S WHEN THE FUN
STARTS.



NOT THIS VARIANT. I
REINFORCED IT WITH VISCERA
MIST FROM VENOM-BLOOMS
NEAR THE OGUN DELTA. BASE
IS STILL NOX-3—BUT THE NEW
ELEMENT? THAT'S THE
BRILLIANCE.
LUANAPHYLLIN.

MOMO'S VOICE SLID THROUGH THEIR COMMS
LIKE STEEL THROUGH SILK.



LUANAPHYLLIN IS RARE AS SILENCE
IN EKO... BUT ONCE INFUSED—IT
BYPASSES THE USUAL RESISTANCE
IN THE OLFACTORY NERVES. SLIPS
STRAIGHT INTO THE
HYPOTHALAMUS. THAT'S WHY THE
FIRST FEW GASPS DON'T TRIGGER
PANIC. JUST... STILLNESS.

HALLWAY — THE ORPHANS
LAY ASLEEP, SILENCED BY
IJAKPA'S TOXIN. THE
SQUAD MOVED THROUGH
THE STILLNESS LIKE A
SLOW, STEADY WAVE."

IJAKPA, ESE —
SWEEP THE
BUILDING.
SOMETHING'S
OFF. BE SHARP



MOMO'S
REALLY PRESSING ON
THIS... LIKE WE'RE
HUNTING MONSTERS,
NOT ORPHANS. HAH.
MAYBE WE ARE.

CLEAR.
BEGIN
RETRIEVAL.



THEY'D NEED A FULL
RESPIRATORY MASK AND
ADRENAL COUNTER-AGENTS.
DOUBT ANY FARMER OR PRIEST
HOLED UP IN HERE HAS THAT.
SLEEP, LITTLE ONES.
NOTHING PERSONAL."

PSSHHHHH!!

PSSHHHHH!!



THE NIGHT WRAPPED THE ORPHANAGE IN BRITTLE SILENCE—TOO COMPLETE TO BE NATURAL.



THE AIR WAS STILL HEAVY...
YET SHE BREATHED IT IN.

SOMETHING'S
OFF... I CAN FEEL
IT. THICKER THAN
IJAKPA'S TOXINS.

YOU DON'T LEAVE LOOSE
ENDS IN AKAMARA. THEY
GROW TEETH.

HER LAST CONVERSATION WITH
JAGUDA LINGERED LIKE SMOKE.

TEETH... OR
WINGS.

UP THE STAIRS, THE HUNTER CLIMBED.

QUIET HALLS...
PERFECT ECHOES.

PARTNERS IN SILENCE.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY IS
MOMO WARY? MY TOXINS ARE
UNSTOPPABLE... ONLY TRAINED
KILLERS SHOULD STILL BE
AWAKE NOW.

GROUND FLOOR CLEAR.
MOVING TO SWEEP UPPER
SECTORS.

OBELE DRIFTED INTO THE
DARK... TROPHIES IN TOW.

DINNER'S
SERVED...
JUST
NOT FOR
THEM.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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